

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 DPW-01 AID-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03

DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 L-02

IO-03 USIA-04 EB-03 RSR-01 /077 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4903

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13151

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MILI VS

SUBJ: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, JULY 20, 1973

FOWLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON JULY 20 INFO CDRUSSAG NIP RTAFB

USDAO SAIGON REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

DANANG 928

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

A. THERE WAS LITTLE MILITARY ACTIVITY AND INCIDENTS WERE LARGELY SCATTERED. GVN ARTILLERY FIRED THE FIRST ROUNDS IN A LONG WHILE NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS ON AN ENEMY MORTAR POSITION SOUTH OF FIREBASE ANZIO (YD930074).

JULY 19, I CORPS HEADQUARTERS BRIEFING: SEVEN CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED, CONSISTING OF FOUR ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF) AND THREE HARASSMENTS. GVN CASUALTIES: 7 KIA, 22 WIA; PRG/NVA: 19 KIA. GVN ARTILLERY FIRED IN THE 1ST ARVN DIVISION AO NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS (65 ROUNDS) AND IN THE 2ND ARVN DIVISION AO (379 ROUNDS) FOR A TOTAL OF 444 ROUNDS.

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JULY 20, I CORPS HEADQUARTERS BRIEFING: TWELVE CEASEFIRE VIO-

LATIONS WERE REPORTED, CONSISTING OF THREE GROUND ATTACKS, SIX ABF AND THREE GROUND HARASSMENTS. GVN CASUALTIES: 5 KIA, 31 WIA; PRG/NVA: 28 KIA. GVN ARTILLERY FIRED IN THE 2ND DIVISION AO IN QUANG NGAI EXCLUSIVELY (241 ROUNDS).

B. THE I CORPS STAFF BRIEFS SIGNIFICANT PRG/NVA VIOLATIONS THROUGHOUT VIETNAM (E.G. ON JULY 20, VIOLATIONS IN KONTUM, LONG KHANH AND SOME PROVINCES IN MR IV). ON JULY 19, PRG/NVA ACTION IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE ALONG ROUTE 1 WAS BRIEFLY NOTED, BUT ON JULY 20 NO FURTHER REPORTS WERE GIVEN (REF BIEN HOA 288, 299).

2. ECONOMIC SITUATION:

A. COLONEL LE TRI TIN, MAYOR OF DANANG, WENT TO SAIGON ON JULY 16 AND AMONG OTHER THINGS DISCUSSED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER THE PROBLEM OF RICE SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN DANANG. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO LIAISON OFFICER (LO) DANANG, TIN ARGUED FOR ESTABLISHING RICE CONTROLS UNTIL THE OCTOBER RICE HARVEST AT LEAST. THE PRIME MINISTER REPORTEDLY WITHHELD A DECISION UNTIL MINISTER OF ECONOMY, PHAN KIM NGOC, HAS RETURNED FROM HIS FACT FINDING MISSION AND REPORTED. NGOC LEFT DANANG FOR SAIGON WITH DEPARTING CONSUL GENERAL BROWN ON JULY 19.

B. IN CONVERSATION WITH NGOC, LO DANANG LEARNED THAT NGOC IS NOT FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO PRICE CONTROLS AS HE ADVOCATES MAINTAINING A "FREE ECONOMY" IN AS MANY RESPECTS AS POSSIBLE. NGOC QUERIED HOW AN AMERICAN COULD RECOMMEND IMPLEMENTATION OF PRICE CONTROLS IN VIETNAM WHEN THEY HAVE NOT WORKED IN THE U.S.

C. MAYOR TIN IS CONTINUING TO FIX THE PRICE OF RICE BROUGHT UP TO MR I BY EACH TRADING COMPANY AND ANNOUNCING THE RATE AND SALE LOCATION FOR THE PUBLIC. THE ANNOUNCEMENT IDENTIFIES THE AMOUNT OF THE DECLARED PRICE, VALUE ADDED TAX, 3 PERCENT PROFIT, TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES AND FINAL FIXED SELLING PRICE. LO DANANG REPORTS, HOWEVER, THAT SOME OF THE TRADING MERCHANTS INVOLVED ARE REPLYING TO INQUIRIES THAT THEY HAVE NO RICE FOR SALE.

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